



# Horses born in the Palace

Chrcynno-Palace Stud - Poland

by Urszula Leczycka ■ photos by Erwin Escher, Alicja Poszepczynska, Wojciech Kwiatkowski, Edyta Trojanska-Koch

Chrcynno-Palace is the stud located in one of the most amazing places one could ever imagine for establishing a farm. History of the place tracks back to the romantic times of XIXth century when the palace was built by the founder – Jozef Kozminski. With its refined, detailed but elegant shapes the building is considered to be the pearl of neogothic secular architecture nowadays – one of three of that kind in Mazovia region of Poland. The palace, originally surrounded by 300 ha large property was designed by Henryk Marconi, the Italian architect – author of the famous, white barns of Janow Podlaski State Stud in Poland (including the Clock Stable being the symbol of the stud nowadays). But the style of Chrcynno-Palace built in 1845 is far different from Janow Podlaski – it was designed as an English cottage manor, especially to suit the landscape of the area and the owners desires while being built. Changing the ownership few times until World War II it was the stylish and comfortable home for its owners. In the dramatic times of war it was serving as the seat of German army, then Russian field hospital but still keeping on untouched until its 100th anniversary in 1945 when the invading Russians blown the palace up while leaving the area. For over 50 years it was just a completely damaged ruin. In the late '90 when the communism in Poland broke down the property went into the hands of private owner who began with the big cleaning up of the area. At the same time Ewa, Alicja and Krzysztof Poszepczynski decided to set up their own stable for few sport horses purchased earlier in 1992. The goal was to find a nicely shaped land with some old trees. The property with 5,5 ha of historical park at Chrcynno village with a piece of romantic ruins seemed to be a perfect localization. In 1999 the first wooden stable was built as a home for the first Pure bred mares – Endera (Grandorr – Eunoma) from Michalow State Stud and Pelisa (Europejczyk – Perelka) from Janow Podlaski. One year after the purchase of the land at Chrcynno they bought third mare – Celoma (Arbil – Celna) from Janow Podlaski and in 2001 the last foundation mare of outstanding pedigree joined the Arabian herd – it was Michalow-bred Granada sired by Monogramm out of valua-



ble Eukaliptus daughter – Grenlandia. The intelligence, refinement and nobleness of new bought horses caused the decision of focusing the breeding on Pure bred Arabians at the young stud. As noble breed needs the noble place Ewa and Krzysztof Poszepczynski decided to restore the palace's ruins with big pietism. Fortunately, the original descriptions of Marconi's design were found in National Library in Warsaw as well as the old pictures survived taken during the second world war by German officer on request of the past owners whose family that leaves in UK and Canada nowadays. It all helped in the restoration arranged by architect Witold Kalinowski. It took four years to re-build the palace completely from the ruins keeping its origins as much as possible. Nowadays, the piece of the old wall surrounding the rose garden is safekept as decorative element of the place reminding of its long and dramatic history. While entering the main door of the palace one can see the huge and impressive painting on the opposite wall above the stairs gallery – it shows the original view of the whole ruins as it was found by the current owners when they purchased the property. Just before the palace's complete restoration the first successes in horse breeding came in 2002 with fillies Echo Kallisto placed top five in the class of two years old fillies at Bialka Junior Spring Show considered as one of the most difficult one in Europe and Pallas-Atena becoming the Reserve Champion Filly in the category of private bred horses at the same show. Soon the stud became a phenomenon in Poland having only 29 horses in overall including few broodmares that gave birth to the outstanding show progeny – that is sired not by the fashionable world top stallions but by Polish-bred ones.

About the reasons and ways of using such exceptional breeding program, about the success, future plans and expectations as well as the outstanding sale offer to be presented by Chrcynno Palace stud soon tells Alicja Poszepczynska – graduated Animal Science master degree, national judge, breeder, nurse, handler and trainer of Arabian horses at Chrcynno but also the author of several texts and articles about the breed, photographer, gardener at Chrcynno historical park and... the sitter for home owned 4 dogs and 10 cats!

**Urszula Leczycka:** Breeding program of Chrcynno-Palace Stud is quite unique with mostly Polish-bred stallions as: Emigrant, Ecabo, Ekstern, Piaff, Poganin, Gaspar used with very good show results of their offspring while the current fashion at most of Polish successful private studs is to use foreign world top sires. What's the reason for it?

Alicja Poszepczynska: Crossing with foreign sires usually causes the faster progress in show breeding but still it is very common trust that the best broodmares are Pure Polish ones. It is also my idea to keep the basis of Pure Polish mares at stud. By the way – looking at the number of visitors and buyers at Pride of Poland sale every year it seems that also foreign breeders admire Polish-bred broodmares very much. Moreover, if there were some Polish-bred stallions suiting our mares – why not to use them if they produce well? Of course, we also try foreign ones to see the results. The reasons for using Polish-bred stallions in the past were partly caused by AI with frozen semen being not so common in Poland for many years but it was and still is my plan to keep a group of broodmares sired by Polish-bred stallions to preserve the good basis. Of course it is even nicer to see the horse sired by Polish stallion and out of Polish dam winning the class or championships abroad. Our goal is to breed very good show horses but with keeping the correctness of conformation – such characteristic for the progeny of Polish mares.

**UE:** But the truth is that there are very few Polish private studs with such spectacular successes of progeny sired without use of world top fashionable sires...

AP: It's not easy for Polish State Studs either – looking at Michalow Stud's best mares of past few years there were mostly the daughters of Monogramm, Gazal al Shaqab, Laheeb...

**UE:** ...while you bred such young mares as: class winner at Tulip Cup and Scandinavian Open – Ganga (by Emigrant), her full sister – top five of the class at Scandinavian Open, class winner and twice highest scored Polish private bred filly at Bialka Junior Spring Show – Gaja Selene, top five of the class at Polish Nationals – Echo Afrodyta (by Piaff) and at last – but not least – Psyche Victoria (by Ek-



photo: Alicja Poszepczynska



stern) – considered as one of the most interesting and promising Polish young mares with the titles of Reserve Champion Filly of Wels Internationals, World Top Ten Junior Female, class winner at Wels, Al Khalediah International Show and Bialka Junior Spring Show and third in the European Championships last year...

AP: And we will keep going this way – unfortunately so many popular foreign stallions are very incorrect in their conformation – very important feature to me while choosing a sire.

UE: So what are the main features you are looking for in the stallion – the future sire?

AP: The first is exterior of course – to cross for the best and eliminate faults. It also depends on what both stallion and mare pass to their progeny. Summing up these information with the pedigree of a sire and the past produce of both lines is the result – but one must feel it by heart. Excellent pedigree of a sire must be confirmed by his excellent show results that I consider as a kind of performance proof of a stallion. I'm interested in these with good show records but even if the stallion was a superstar but has faults in his legs or body I could only use him with my most correct mare and in very small scale. It is also better and more safe to use the stallion that successfully passes down their quality on their foals. I usually repeat only the outstanding crosses with the stallions that produced well with my mares in the past – as Ekstern or Emigrant did but I never breed all my mares with one stallion. At the moment I'm waiting for Esparto to come back to Poland from the lease to Ajman – I think this stallion hasn't said his last word and will show his full potential in the future.

UE: The next phenomenon of your stud is that you keep having very limited number of mares and only 29 horses in overall...

AP: We have not enough space to keep large number of broodmares and I think the more important is the quality than the quantity – our goal is to have few broodmares but of outstanding quality, being bred in right way. Moreover, we start breeding our mares in the age of four as I don't think 3 years

old filly is matured enough to get pregnant – it influences her future physical development too much.

UE: Do you think this fashion for intensive use of foreign bred stallions is good for Polish breeding program?

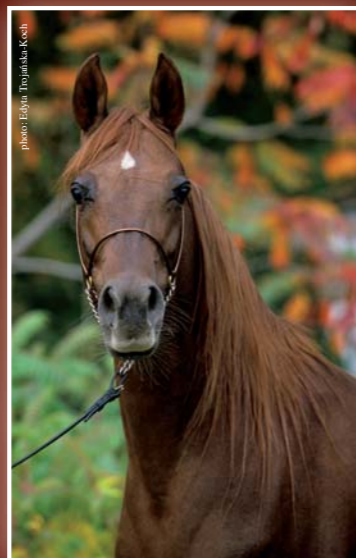
AP: It's good for widening the genetical pool that, when too narrow can cause a lot of problems as well. Pure Polish mares can produce very well when outcrossed with foreign stallions without a doubt but the new fashion can also be dangerous and should be used carefully and in reasonable way. Polish-bred stallions can sometimes lack of type or beautiful head but they are very correct ones. Type and head it usually easier to be improved than correctness of conformation. When I first went to the shows abroad I was excited with all these nicely headed horses that should win against Polish horses but at the end of the day Polish ones win very often – thanks to their conformation.

UE: So your first goal was to breed your own group of Pure Polish broodmares...

AP: Yes, very good broodmares and my priority is to preserve this group while the other one will be outcrossed. I'm not going to close the genetical pool and breed for Pure Polish only.

UE: There are very few stallions at your farm – were mostly fillies born here in the past or you sell all the colts so successfully?

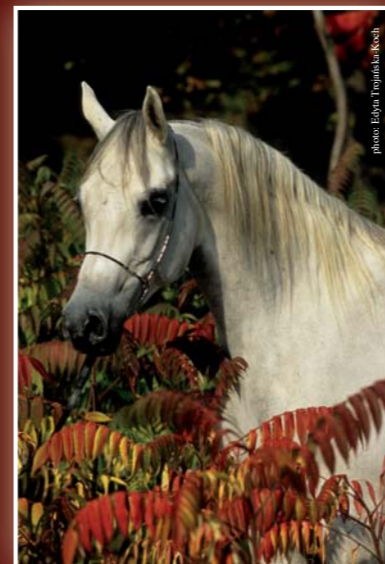
AP: Last year there were 3 colts born at Chrcynno but this is true that mostly fillies were born at our stud so far which



Granada



Granada with Gaja Selene



Echo Kallisto



Pomona



Pallas-Atena



Ceres

International Show by Psyche Victoria, then her Reserve Champion Filly title at Wels Internationals – the first international title gained for Chrcynno-Palace and at Bialka Junior Spring Show – one of the most difficult in Europe your stud was most successful private one placing 4 young horses in classes top fives!

AP: Indeed, the yearling filly Gaja Iris (Poganim – Granada) was close to the class winner, the yearling colt – Echo Adonis (Al Maraam – Echo Kallisto) as well. In two years old colts class Panicz (Gaspar – Pelisa) – purchased in utero from our stud was also top five for his new owners and three years old fillies Gaja Selene and Echo Afrodyta was highly scored top five and the first one was the best private bred filly as well.

is good for our program of raising and keeping some of home bred Pure Polish mares of course. But if it would be an excellent show horse I think it's even better when a colt is born. Of course we used to sell the colts if there was only a chance for a good deal.

UE: It is usually very hard to make a good deal on selling a colt...

AP: Young colts are hard to be sold indeed but not geldings – especially while trained at least on the dressage and show jumping basic stage. The horse must be calm and easy to handle of course, it also needs to wait and find it's proper client as well as the proper client needs to look for his perfect horse.

UE: The year of 2008 seems to be very special for Chrcynno-Palace – you began with the class winning at Al Khalediah

UE: What are your further goals and expectations for this show season then?

AP: There are no expectations as the show is just a show and the result depends on jury, horses condition and mood at that particular day – one has to remember that we compete for the short, few minutes in the ring only. I would like my horses to be placed at classes top fives still but I never plan to win anywhere – you can never plan the 3-4 minutes long performance, especially with young horses usually unpredictable, you can never guess the mood and condition of your rivals but it is always very nice when it happens to win. Our horses will appear at Menton, Polish Nationals, Janow Podlaski Autumn Show and then – hopefully, at the three most important title shows – All Nations Cup, European and World Championships. We are going to present our youngsters that already took part at Bialka Spring Show – as well as Psyche Victoria ho-



wever there are still a couple of yearling unshown yet – the progeny of Galba – we don't want to show everything off from our stable at one time... The important point for us is to keep training all the young horses even if they wouldn't become a showstars, they will always be easier to handle in the future, it's a part of their education.

**UL:** This year is the special one also for one more reason – Chrcynno-Palace will open it's doors after 2008 Polish Nationals and Pride of Poland sale – to put the last of it's foundation mares for sale!

**AP:** Indeed, the Monogramm daughter – Granada has given birth to 3 excellent daughters at our stud – Ganga, Gaja Selene and Gaja Iris. Considering the show record of her progeny Granada is one of the best Monogramm mares currently, she was top five at Bialka Junior Spring Show herself as well and she is the daughter of Polish National Champion Mare so her breeding success is proven by the history and tradition of Granada's bloodline. And for us it's the time we should start limiting the number of our broodmares so Granada can share her potential with some other stud.

**UL:** What is the event schedule for Monday 11th August Open Barns at Chrcynno-Palace then?

**AP:** First of all we would like to present our breeding program and it's products – the horses of Chrcynno-Palace including mares with 2008 foals and... some surprises! The sale offer will be discussed individually in nice, pleasant atmosphere far from the crowd and noise of public auction. The offer will be available online at our websites before the event and next to the main star – Granada we will offer about 10 horses including young broodmares with one of Ekstern daughters – who is already proven dam of very nice filly by Gaspar. Some young colts will complete the saleslist. We would like to pay our tribute and say "thank you" to all



photo: Erwin Escher



photo: Erwin Escher

### Psyche Victoria

of these who invited us to their own studs abroad and show our farm and breeding program to the new friends that will surely come for Polish National Show. We hope that visiting peaceful Chrcynno-Palace after this big event will be nice fulfilling of their stay in Poland. From my own experience – visiting other farms you get the advantage by widening your experiences, meeting other breeders, watching their horses, studying some other breeding programs. We started visiting the foreign shows and farms thanks to our horses – the first of them to travel across European showrings was Ganga. Following her from one country to another we started the exciting adventure – that eventually became a big fun with Ganga's "nineties" or "twenties" gained at the judges cards! □



photo: Erwin Escher

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photo: Erwin Escher

### Ganga